

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

(a) Please replace the paragraph at page 10, lines 9-13, with the following paragraph:

As shown in FIGS. 3 and 4, the number of pins 70 can vary between the pair of opposed first edges 52 of the shelf 50. Similarly, the number of apertures 80 can vary between the opposed sides of the lower assembly 14. Varying the number of pins 70 and corresponding apertures 80 between the first sides 52 ensures the proper assembly of the lower assembly 14 because the shelf 50 can be connected to the ~~lower frame member 32~~ cross-member 28 in only one manner.

(b) Please replace the paragraph at page 10, lines 14-18, with the following paragraph:

When the shelf 50 is placed within the interior space 40 such that the pin 70 is received by the aperture 80, the shelf 50 is connected to the lower assembly 14 ~~frame member 28~~. As a result, the structural integrity of both the lower assembly 14 and the grill assembly 10 is increased. Described in another manner, the shelf 50 provides structural integrity to the lower assembly 14 and the grill assembly 10 when the pin 70 is received by the aperture 80.

(c) Please replace the paragraph at page 11, lines 3-10, with the following paragraph:

The shelf 50 and its related components, including the pin 70 ~~52~~, can be formed from plastic, steel, aluminum, or other metals, including metal alloys. FIGS. 1-4 show an open grill assembly 10, meaning that the upper and lower assemblies 12, 14 are not enclosed. Panels and doors can be added to the grill assembly 10 to form an enclosed cabinet (not shown) positioned beneath the cooking chamber 16. Consistent with the above disclosure, the shelf 50 can be employed within the cabinet to form either a bottom wall or a top wall of the cabinet. In this configuration, the shelf 50 connects the panels and doors and provides structural integrity to the cabinet.

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(d) Please replace the paragraph at page 13, lines 9-15, with the following paragraph:

Referring to FIGS. 1, 3 and 6-8, ~~FIG. 6~~, the H-shaped subassemblies 30 of the lower frame assembly 14 are spaced a distance defining the interior space 40. At an initial position P0 (not shown), the shelf 150 is generally positioned within the interior space 40 but does not engage any portion of the lower assembly 14. At the initial position P0, the lower assembly 14 lacks structural integrity because the H-shaped assemblies 30 are not connected. At the initial position P0, an initial clearance C0 (not shown) exists between the securing member 152 and the first edge 154 of the shelf 150.

(e) Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 31, and ending on page 16, line 9, with the following paragraph:

The shelf 250 has at least one support member 266 extending from the first edge 254. The support member 266 is adapted to engage a portion of the cross-member 28 when the shelf 250 is connected to the cross-member 28. Referring to FIGS. 10 and 11, the support member ~~266~~ 226 has a first portion 266a, a second portion 266b, and a third portion 266c, and a fourth portion 266d defining a recess adapted to receive a portion of the cross-member 28. Preferably, the recess has dimensions slightly larger than the dimensions of the cross-member 28. The support member 226 has an angled or sloped configuration which facilitates engagement with the lower member 28 without causing abrasions on the lower member 28. Although the support member 266 is shown as having an angular configuration, the support member 266 can have a number of configurations, including a curvilinear configuration.

(f) Please replace the paragraph at page 17, lines 3-10, with the following paragraph:

The securing member 252, the support member 266, and the finger 290 continue to engage the cross-member 28 as the downward force is applied to the shelf ~~250~~ 150. Accordingly, the securing member ~~252~~ 152 flexes inward an amount as the securing member ~~252~~ 152 slidably engages the inner wall 170 and moves from a first edge 176 of the inner wall 170 towards a second edge 178 of the inner wall 170. As the securing member 252 slidably engages the inner wall 170, a first clearance C1 exists between the securing member 252 and the

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shelf 250. Because the securing member 252 flexes inward an amount, the first clearance C1 is smaller than the initial clearance C0.

(g) Please replace the paragraph at page 19, lines 13-22, with the following paragraph:

The sidewalls 312, 314, 316 and 318 ~~312-318~~ depend from the bottom wall 310. And, the opposing securing members 308a, 308b depend from opposing first and second sidewalls 312, 314. As shown in FIGS. 13-16, two securing members 308a, 308b are utilized. However, as is understood by those having ordinary skill in the relevant art, more or less than two securing members 308 may be incorporated into the present invention. Additionally, if more than one securing member 308 is utilized, they may be located on adjacent sidewalls, or they may be located on opposing sidewalls. Further, the securing members 308 may be connected to the bottom wall 310 of the shelf 300.

(h) Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 19, line 31, and ending on page 20, line 9, with the following paragraph:

In one preferred embodiment, as best shown in FIGS. 15 and 17, the sidewalls 312, 314, 316 and 318 ~~312-318~~ have an upstanding member 320, a transverse member 322 and a downturned member 324. Such a configuration may result in an inverted U-shaped member that depends from the bottom member 310. Typically, each U-shaped member engages a different cross-member 306 of the barbecue grill frame assembly 302 to seat the shelf 300 on the barbecue grill frame assembly 302. Accordingly, as shown in FIGS. 12 and 18, the first U-shaped member 312 engages a first cross member 326 of the barbecue grill frame assembly 302, the second U-shaped member 314 engages a second cross member 328 of the barbecue grill frame assembly 302, the third U-shaped member 316 engages a third cross member 330 of the barbecue grill frame assembly, and the fourth U-shaped member 318 engages a fourth cross member 332 of the barbecue grill frame assembly.

(i) Please replace the paragraph at page 20, lines 10-22, with the following paragraph:

In a preferred embodiment, including where the shelf 300 is made from a piece of sheet material, the sidewalls 312, 314, 316 and 318 ~~312-318~~ are typically made from the same material as the bottom wall 300 of the shelf 300. As such, the sidewalls 312, 314, 316 and 318 ~~312-318~~ may be made by bending the perimeter portions of the shelf 300 to create the various members (i.e., upstanding member 320, a transverse member 322 and a downturned member 324) of the shelf 300. Generally, the upstanding member 320 of the sidewall depends directly from the bottom wall 310 of the shelf 300. In alternative embodiments, all of some of the sidewalls 312, 314, 316 and 318 ~~312-318~~ may be made of only one or more of the various members 320, 322 and 324 ~~320-324~~ of the sidewall. As such, a sidewall may be made of only a downturned member 324; alternatively, a sidewall may be made of only a transverse member 322; alternatively, a sidewall may be made of a transverse member 322 and a downturned member 324; alternatively, a sidewall may be made of an upstanding member 320 and a transverse member 322. Further, additional alternatives exist. Generally, each of the alternative sidewall structures would depend from the bottom wall.

(j) Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 20, line 23, and ending on page 21, line 3, with the following paragraph:

As shown in FIGS. 12 and 19A-19C, in one preferred embodiment, when the shelf 300 is seated on the barbecue grill frame assembly 302, the first and second sidewalls 312, 314 that have securing members 308a, 308b are seated on the cross members 326, 328 by having the downturned members 324 and the transverse members 322 of these sidewalls 312, 314, as well as the securing members 308a, 308b engage the respective cross members 326, 328 of the barbecue grill frame assembly 302 to fully seat the shelf 300. With respect to the third and fourth sidewalls 316, 318 of this embodiment that do not have securing members 308, typically only the transverse members 322 and possibly the downturned members 324 engage the respective cross members 330, 332. The upstanding member 320 of the third and fourth sidewalls 316, 318 may, however, engage the cross members 330, 332. Drain areas to allow water and other fluid debris to drain from the shelf 300 are provided in each of the corners of the

shelf 300 where the sidewalls 312, 314, 316 and 318 ~~312-318~~ of the shelf 300 meet the leg members 304 of the barbecue grill.

(k) Please replace the paragraph at page 23, lines 1-11, with the following paragraph:

Additionally, the shelf 300 may be utilized without a securing member 308. In such an embodiment, the shelf 300 is configured and fabricated to allow one or more of the sidewalls 312, 314, 316 and 318 ~~312-318~~ to engage the cross members of the barbecue grill frame assembly 302. In one such embodiment, shown in FIG. 20, the sidewalls 312, 314, 316 and 318 ~~312-318~~ have a downturned portion 324. The downturned portion 324 of opposing sidewalls 312, 314 engages opposing cross members 326, 328 to seat the shelf 300 and secure the shelf 300 within the interior space of the barbecue grill frame assembly 302. As explained above, various combinations or alternatives of the sidewall members may also be incorporated in this embodiment without departing from the scope of the present invention. Alternatively, a flexible securing member 308 may be incorporated into the above structure to assist in securing the shelf 300 to the frame assembly 302.